



Natomas Oral Histories

2015/027

Oral interview of

Delores Fural

April 28, 1998

Interviewer: Coey Sipes
Transcriber: Anne Z. Ofsink

Center for Sacramento History
551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95811-0229
(916) 808-7072
csh@cityofsacramento.org
www.centerforsacramentohistory.org
© Center for Sacramento History, 2018

This is not a verbatim transcript. Parts of the interview have been paraphrased.

Delores: El Camino — there was nothing there. Nothing but filth. I would pick tomatoes there. Would you believe that? Right in Northgate, there was still tomatoes. I would go to work there. I was married already, carrying my baby.

Coey: Can you tell me your family background, where your parents and grandparents came from?

Delores: From Mexico. Old Mexico.

Coey: Do you know why they came to Natomas?

Delores: Not here in Natomas, though. Here in California, but not in Natomas.

Coey: Do you know what they did here in California?

Delores: My daddy used to work in the farms, too.

Coey: Would you mind telling us when you were born?

Delores: Do you want to know? I hate that.

Coey: Ok, you don't have to tell us that.

Delores: September 16 is my birthday. I was born in 1927. You see — you don't believe I was born in the '20s.

Coey: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Delores: Oh, yes. We're 10 of us. Three died already. My mom and my dad died, too.

Coey: Do you have any memories growing up as a child here?

Delores: Oh yes. You know where the "V" is? It used to be little houses there. That's where I used to live when I was about 7 years old. And Raymond Aguilar down the street? We know each other since we were kids. We just wave to each other now, we never hardly visit — him and Lolly, his wife. But we were raised together. I know a lot of the people here. Ok, let's go. I'm making it too long.

[00:02:40]

Coey: No, that's ok. What language was spoken in your home?

Delores: Just Spanish. I'm Latina.

Coey: Were any of the customs that you had as a kid maintained now?

Delores: What do you mean, customs?

Coey: Well, since you are Mexican, did you have piñatas? Did you eat enchiladas? I don't know. Were any of your Mexican cultures kept here?

Delores: I was not born in Mexico. I was born here.

Coey: Your mom—

Delores: Yes, my mom and my dad, my parents were married here. So, I don't know anything about Mexico.

Coey: Oh, ok. Do you know any neighbors that you — you just told me that. How were the roads, streets, and stuff? Were they big, or rural ones, or little dirt roads?

Delores: They're ok. It's just the people that pass by, they speed over here, a lot of the people. I know who they are. If I want to, I could report it, but I don't say anything because I don't want to get involved.

Coey: Was farming the main source of money in Natomas?

Delores: What do you mean?

Coey: Did almost everyone work the farms?

Delores: I wouldn't know. I know the Vasquez family, and Delores, her maiden name is Mora. I know the whole family of Raymond Vasquez.

Coey: Do you remember any problems with water rights?

Delores: Always been the same now... Except for the sidewalks... We didn't have sewers then.

[00:04:50]

Coey: Do you think there were any laws passed that were unfair?

Delores: I wouldn't know.

Coey: Do you think development has hurt this area, or has it been an improvement?

Delores: I wouldn't know.

Coey: What did you and your family do for entertainment?

Delores: Went to the show, Mexican restaurants, to the State Fair when it used to come. It wasn't at Cal Expo. It used to be on Stockton Boulevard. We wouldn't eat out much.

Coey: What would you like to tell others about living in Natomas?

[00:06:01]

Delores: I wish everybody would keep the streets and their places clean. I like clean! I don't like to see junk. Now it is junkier. I don't like to see the view across the street now; its junkier. It bothers me. I don't think I like it here anymore. Do you know I go sweep over there sometime? I've been doing that for years. That's me. I like to be clean, but I can't be real clean now, because there's so many things you got to do. It's not like when I was younger, oh my God, I used to stay up till 1 o'clock scrubbing. I'm old already. You see, I'm 70.

Coey: That's not that old.

Delores: That's not old, huh? But you don't do as much as you want to.

Coey: Your house is perfectly clean!

Delores: Just straight!

Coey: Can you say your name for us?

Delores: Delores. Everybody calls me "Lola." But my full name is Delores Fural.

Coey: Ok, thank you.